

Detection of fake medicines cases

1530. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of fake medicines detected and registered during the last three years;

(b) the share of Delhi to total cases detected; and

(c) the reasons for failure to contain the malady and the effective steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the feed back available from the State Licensing Authorities, 344 samples of Spurious/fack medicines were detected/registered during the period 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(b) Out of 344 samples of spurious (fake) medicines reported in the country, 26 samples of spurious (fake) medicines were reported in Delhi.

(c) Since manufacture and sale of spurious medicine is a clandestine activity indulged in by anti-social persons, steps are taken from time to time by the enforcement authorities of the States to detect and unearth spurious/fake drugs moving in inter-State commerce. The Drugs Controller General (India) has advised the State Drugs Controllers to take the following measures for curbing the incidence of spurious drugs;

- (i) Constitution/reactivation of State Drug Advisory Committees in which various trade and industry associations as well as consumer associations should find representation.
- (ii) Establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with police assistance.
- (iii) Training should be provided to selected officials of Drug Control Administration in the modalities of intelligence work, prosecution etc. in respect of Spurious/Counterfeit drugs
- (iv) To ensure speedy analysis of drugs samples by establishing own State level drug testing facilities.
- (v) State Drugs Licensing Authorities to be cautious while approving licences for drug products to ensure that "look-alike" products are not encouraged.
- (vi) To develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures.

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- (vii) To undertake surveillance of suspected dealers.
- (viii) To engage experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases.
- (ix) To obtain cooperation of Pharmaceutical Industry by regular interaction with them.
- (x) To collect survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drug (NSQED) programme.

The All India Organisation of Chemist and Druggist Association (AIOCD) holds National Pharmacy Weeks from time to time to create awareness among the public. Do's and Don'ts for consumers are also published.

- (xi) To ensure manufacture of qualitative drugs/medicines in the country Good Manufacturing Practices is a statutory requirement under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. These provisions are being upgraded.

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services (DGHS) on July 18, 2001 to go into all aspects of the menace of spurious drugs and suggest remedial measures.

News-item "Silent killer seeps through rural Gangetic delta"

1531. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Silent killer seeps through rural Gangetic delta" which appeared in the Times of India, dated 24th April, 2001 highlighting arsenic mix in West Bengal ground water affecting some 53 lakh population;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto including the details of relevant reports and studies of World Health Organisation mentioned therein; and

(c) the assessment made by Central Government and the measures taken to provide clean drinking water to the affected population and plans drawn upto fight the arsenic-induced ailments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Arsenic Concentration in Ground Water beyond the permissible limit of 0.05 mg/l has been identified in 67 Blocks of 8 districts of the State of West Bengal. The population at risk according to the latest survey, is 62.85 lakhs. With provision of Arsenic free